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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/541,731	03/17/2006	Fenghua Deng	DTG1-125US	1861
31344	7590	09/30/2009	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA P.O. BOX 1596 WILMINGTON, DE 19899			SCHLENTZ, NATHAN W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1616	
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			09/30/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/541,731

Applicant(s)

DENG ET AL.

Examiner

Nathan W. Schlientz

Art Unit

1616

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 14-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 14-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 July 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/29/05
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-10 and 14-28 are pending in the present application and are examined herein on the merits for patentability. No claim is allowed at this time.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim recites, "wherein the gloss is at least 70". However, it is unclear what is meant by this recitation. The specification teaches gloss values of the film surface measured using a Dr Lange Reflectometer REFO 3 wherein reflection was measured at three angles, 20°, 60° and 85°, and measurements were carried out in both the machine and the transverse directions of the film (pg. 17, ln. 30 to pg. 18, ln. 2). The specification further teaches that the 60° gloss value of the film is preferably at least 70, more preferably at least 80, and more preferably at least 85. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See MPEP § 2111.01(II).

2. Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 28 is dependent from claim 12 which is a canceled claim. Therefore, it is not clear what are the metes and bounds of claim 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-4, 10, 14-23 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 102(e) as being anticipated by Podhajny (US 2003/0091767 A1).

Podhajny discloses that it was known to prepare antibiotic films by admixing zeolites and a variety of polymer materials in a usual manner and forming the films by any known method such as casting, extrusion, and drawing methods ([0008]). Podhajny further discloses that non-leeching, long acting, anti-microbial coatings, which kill microorganisms on contact are known ([0009]). Podhajny discloses a method of applying an anti-microbial treatment to the surface of a packaging material, wherein the

method includes providing a substantially inert dispersion comprising a polymer and anti-microbial zeolites, preferably a zeolite containing silver ions, printing the dispersion onto the packaging material surface and drying the dispersion to form a coating layer having the polymer and zeolites on at least a portion of the exposed surface thereof ([0011]). The zeolites comprise from about 0.5% to about 10% by weight of the dispersion and preferably have a particle size of between about 2 and about 5 μm ([0012]). The coating layer includes a polymeric material and zeolites containing silver ions, which are present on at least a portion of the exposed surface of the coating layer ([0013]). Podhajny discloses a method for rendering a nylon, or polystyrene film anti-microbial or more resistant to bacteria by applying a water-based dispersion to the film ([0014]).

Podhajny discloses food packaging films suitable for use in their invention include polymeric films such as blown film, oriented film, stretch and shrink film, heat shrinkable bags and food casings. Suitable films include regenerated cellulose and thermoplastic stretch or shrink films, and may be monolayer or multilayer films. Shrink films are preferably formed into heat shrinkable, biaxially oriented bags. Plastics such as homopolymers or copolymers of polyolefin's, e.g. polypropylene, polyethylene, or polyamides, polyethylene terephthalate, polyvinylidene chloride copolymers or ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers may also be used to form the food-contacting films ([0052]).

Podhajny claims a packaging material having anti-microbial properties on at least one surface thereof, comprising an anti-microbial coating layer printed on the surface of said packaging material, said coating layer comprising an exposed surface containing a

polymer and zeolites containing anti-microbial metal ions, said zeolites having a particle size of between about 2 and about 5 μm , a pore size of between about 3 and about 5 Å, and comprising from about 0.1 to about 5% by weight of said coating layer (claim 23). The packaging material of claim 23, wherein the anti-microbial metal ion is a silver ion (claim 24); the zeolites comprise from about 0.1 to about 5% by weight of the coating layer (claim 25); the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyamides, acrylics, polyvinyl chloride, methyl methacrylates, polyurethanes, ethyl cellulose, polyvinylbutyral, polyketones, and nitrocelluloses (claim 27); the polymer is polyester (claim 28) or sulfonated polyester (claim 29); and the coating layer has a thickness of about 2-8 μm (claim 31).

With regard to the heat-seal strength or barrier to water vapor or oxygen, the haze, the gloss and the degree of shrinkage, the compositions according to Podhanjy are prepared with the same polymeric substrate, polymeric coating layer and anti-microbial compound with the same layer thickness. Therefore, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the films according to Podhanjy inherently possess the same heat-seal strength or barrier to water vapor or oxygen, haze, gloss and degree of shrinkage as the instantly claimed polymeric films. The examiner respectfully points out the following from MPEP 2112: "The discovery of a previously unappreciated property of a prior art composition, or of a scientific explanation for the prior art's functioning, does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer." *Atlas Powder Co. v. Ireco Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342, 1347, 51 USPQ2d 1943, 1947 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Thus the claiming of a new use, new function or unknown property which is inherently present in

the prior art does not necessarily make the claim patentable. *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 1254, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977). In *In re Crish*, 393 F.3d 1253, 1258, 73 USPQ2d 1364, 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2004), the court stated that "just as the discovery of properties of a known material does not make it novel, the identification and characterization of a prior art material also does not make it novel."

2. Claims 1-4, 10, 14-23 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Konagaya et al. (EP 0 846 418 A1).

Konagaya et al. disclose an inorganic and/or organic antibacterial agent and a hydrophilic substance used in combination to produce an antibacterial composition. High antibacterial moldings can be obtained by laminating the antibacterial composition on an inorganic or organic substrate (Abstract). Konagaya et al. disclose that the inorganic antibacterial agent is an inorganic compound which carries the particles and/or ions of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of silver, zinc and copper (claim 3). An antibacterial laminate is prepared by laminating the antibacterial composition comprising the metal particles and/or ions on at least one surface of an inorganic or organic substrate (claim 13), wherein the organic substrate is a molded product, such as a film or sheet (claim 17), prepared from a thermoplastic resin (claim 15) selected from the group consisting of PVC, polyvinylidene chloride, PE, PP, polyamide, polystyrene, polyacrylonitrile, polyester and polyurethane (claim 16).

Konagaya et al. further disclose the thermoplastic or thermosetting resin including PE, PP, PVC, PVA, nylon, polyethylene terephthalate, polycarbonate,

polystyrene, polyurethane, etc. (pg. 9, ln. 28-34). a transparent PET film having a dried thickness of 0.3 μm (Example 23). The average diameter of primary particles is 0.01 to 5 μm , and preferably present at 5% by weight or less (pg. 9, ln. 10-11). The antibacterial films or sheets are suitable for use as a film or sheet for wall papers, wrapping foods, a shrink film, a shrink label, a base film for magnetic tape, a film for wrapping semi-conducting or electronic materials, magnetic card, OHP, a support for photographic materials, heat-sensitive papers, etc. (pg. 9, ln. 48-51).

With regard to the heat-seal strength or barrier to water vapor or oxygen, the haze, the gloss and the degree of shrinkage, the compositions according to Konagaya et al. are prepared with the same polymeric substrate, polymeric coating layer and anti-microbial compound with the same layer thickness. Therefore, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the films according to Konagaya et al. inherently possess the same heat-seal strength or barrier to water vapor or oxygen, haze, gloss and degree of shrinkage as the instantly claimed polymeric films. The examiner respectfully points out the following from MPEP 2112: "The discovery of a previously unappreciated property of a prior art composition, or of a scientific explanation for the prior art's functioning, does not render the old composition patentably new to the discoverer." *Atlas Powder Co. v. Ireco Inc.*, 190 F.3d 1342, 1347, 51 USPQ2d 1943, 1947 (Fed. Cir. 1999). Thus the claiming of a new use, new function or unknown property which is inherently present in the prior art does not necessarily make the claim patentable. *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 1254, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977). In *In re Crish*, 393 F.3d 1253, 1258, 73 USPQ2d 1364, 1368 (Fed. Cir. 2004), the court stated that "just as the discovery of

properties of a known material does not make it novel, the identification and characterization of a prior art material also does not make it novel.”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1,148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.
1. Claims 1-10 and 14-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Podhajny (US 2003/0091767 A1) in view of Sugiura et al. (US 5,296,238).

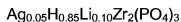
Determination of the scope and content of the prior art

(MPEP 2141.01)

The teachings of Podhanjy are discussed above and incorporated herein by reference.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims
(MPEP 2141.02)

Podhanjy does not teach anti-microbial compounds comprising phosphate containing an anti-microbial metal ion, such as silver. However, Sugiura et al. teach a microbicide which contains, as an active ingredient, a specific phosphate containing a metal ion having antibacterial, antifungal or antialgal activity such as silver, copper, zinc, tin, mercury, lead, iron, cobalt, nickel, manganese, arsenic, antimony, bismuth, barium, cadmium or chromium ion, and the microbicide can be used as antimicrobial compositions which comprise the microbicide mixed with various binders or as antimicrobial shaped products which comprise the microbicide supported on carriers such as fibers, films, papers, and plastics (col. 1, In. 4-14). Silver is the especially preferred metal from the points of stability and antimicrobial activity (col. 3, In. 1-2). Specific examples of phosphate antimicrobials include (col. 3, In. 14-53; and Table 5):



Sugiura et al. teach preparation of the above microbicides wherein after completion of washing with water, the residue was subjected to classification using a

screen to collect fine particles of 1.0 μm or less (col. 10, ln. 31-34). The microbicide can be used in various forms such as powder-containing films (col. 5, ln. 21-35), wherein the films include food-packaging films and medical films (col. 5, ln. 44-45). Evaluation test 1 teaches adding 2 parts by weight microbicide to 100 parts by weight polyethylene terephthalate in a solvent, injection molding at 270 °C to make a product (col. 8, ln. 5-12). Sugiura et al. further teach fine powders comprising silver wherein the average particle size is 1.0 or 1.1 μm (col. 13, ln. 6-14). Sugiura et al. claim a method of inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on a surface comprising coating or impregnating said surface with an antimicrobially effective amount of the microbicide (claim 6).

Finding of *prima facie* obviousness

Rational and Motivation (MPEP 2142-43)

Therefore, it would have been *prima facie* obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the anti-microbial phosphate containing an anti-microbial metal ion according to Sugiura et al. into the anti-microbial films according to Podhanjy. One of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation of success because Sugiura et al. teach incorporation of the phosphate containing silver into films wherein the resulting films are antimicrobial.

From the teachings of the references, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in producing the claimed invention. Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

2. Claims 1-10 and 14-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Konagaya et al. (EP 0 846 418 A1) in view of Sugiura et al. (US 5,296,238).

Determination of the scope and content of the prior art

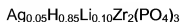
(MPEP 2141.01)

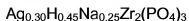
The teachings of Konagaya et al. are discussed above and incorporated herein by reference.

Ascertainment of the difference between the prior art and the claims

(MPEP 2141.02)

Konagaya et al. do not teach anti-microbial compounds comprising phosphate containing an anti-microbial metal ion, such as silver. However, Sugiura et al. teach a microbicide which contains, as an active ingredient, a specific phosphate containing a metal ion having antibacterial, antifungal or antialgal activity such as silver, copper, zinc, tin, mercury, lead, iron, cobalt, nickel, manganese, arsenic, antimony, bismuth, barium, cadmium or chromium ion, and the microbicide can be used as antimicrobial compositions which comprise the microbicide mixed with various binders or as antimicrobial shaped products which comprise the microbicide supported on carriers such as fibers, films, papers, and plastics (col. 1, In. 4-14). Silver is the especially preferred metal from the points of stability and antimicrobial activity (col. 3, In. 1-2). Specific examples of phosphate antimicrobials include (col. 3, In. 14-53; and Table 5):





Sugiura et al. teach preparation of the above microbicides wherein after completion of washing with water, the residue was subjected to classification using a screen to collect fine particles of 1.0 μm or less (col. 10, ln. 31-34). The microbicide can be used in various forms such as powder-containing films (col. 5, ln. 21-35), wherein the films include food-packaging films and medical films (col. 5, ln. 44-45). Evaluation test 1 teaches adding 2 parts by weight microbicide to 100 parts by weight polyethylene terephthalate in a solvent, injection molding at 270 °C to make a product (col. 8, ln. 5-12). Sugiura et al. further teach fine powders comprising silver wherein the average particle size is 1.0 or 1.1 μm (col. 13, ln. 6-14). Sugiura et al. claim a method of inhibiting the growth of microorganisms on a surface comprising coating or impregnating said surface with an antimicrobially effective amount of the microbicide (claim 6).

Finding of *prima facie* obviousness

Rational and Motivation (MPEP 2142-43)

Therefore, it would have been *prima facie* obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the anti-microbial phosphate containing an anti-microbial metal ion according to Sugiura et al. into the anti-microbial films according to Konagaya et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation

of success because Sugiura et al. teach incorporation of the phosphate containing silver into films wherein the resulting films are antimicrobial.

From the teachings of the references, it is apparent that one of ordinary skill in the art would have had a reasonable expectation of success in producing the claimed invention. Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nathan W. Schlientz whose telephone number is 571-272-9924. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NWS

/John Pak/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1616